

A.4.1 Sun-Earth Connection Theory Program

1. Scope of Program

The SECTP is a continuation of the previously funded Space Physics Theory Program (SPTP) except for galactic cosmic rays investigations that, beginning with the ROSS-98 NRA, are now included in the Astrophysics Theory Program (see Section A.2.6). The scientific purview of the SECTP encompasses solar physics, heliospheric physics, magnetospheric physics, and ionospheric, thermospheric and mesospheric physics. The new title and scope of this program element reflect organizational changes within OSS. The SECTP is a triennium program, that is, it solicits proposals only every three years.

The SECTP supports theory and modeling investigations of the highest scientific quality dealing with problems of fundamental importance within or transcending the boundaries of these individual disciplines. The key characteristics of successful SECTP investigations are that they are of the highest intrinsic scientific quality, and that they also propose to attack problems falling within OSS SEC science theme of sufficient breadth that their successful completion requires the efforts of a synergistically interacting group of investigators. Proposals that serve only as an umbrella for a variety of separate research tasks, even though the tasks are related by a common theme, are not appropriate for the SECTP. Likewise, proposals for narrowly focused and/or smaller scope theoretical efforts should be submitted to the individual SEC science discipline program elements described in Section A.4 of this Appendix A. An important characteristic of the SECTP is that it encourages the exploration and development of new areas in the Sun-Earth Connection theme, especially interdisciplinary ones, and, in so doing, may develop objectives for future but as yet undefined space missions.

2. Programmatic Information

Selections for the SECTP are nominally for a three-year period of performance with annual funding allotments contingent upon the submission of a satisfactory progress reports and available funding. The most SECTP selections were carried out under the auspices of the ROSS-98 NRA, and funding for the selected investigations will start in Fiscal Year 1999. The total budget for this program element is about \$3.5 M. Since no increase is anticipated for the SECTP for rest of the triennium, the next selection opportunity is expected to be advertised in ROSS-2001. Therefore, proposals for this program element are not solicited through this current ROSS-99.

Questions concerning this program may be addressed to the Discipline Scientist:

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